Intelligence Information Report

GRCAMERA

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S E C R E T

REPORT NO. CS-311/08041-71

DATE DISTR. 16 November 1971

COUNTRY Austria/China

DOI Mid-November 1971

SUBJECT PRC Denial of Visas to Austrian Journalists

ACQ Austria, Vienna (12 November 1971)

FIELD NO.

SOURCE A Vienna newspaper editor who has furnished reliable information in the past.

1. As of 12 November 1971, a group of senior Austrian editors representing several leading Austrian newspapers was still being refused visas to visit the People's Republic of China (PRC) because they would not sign an agreement that their publications would in the future print nothing supporting the "two-China" theory and would henceforth refuse to accept advertising on behalf of any Taiwan firms. The group of journalists, which includes Eberhard S t r a h o l, chief editor of the Vienna "Kurier," Dr. Karl Heinz R i t s c h e l, chief editor of the "Salzburger Nachrichten," and an editor of the Vienna daily "Die Presse," as well as two other journalists, left Vienna on 7 November 1971 and visited Japan and Hong Kong with the expectation of continuing on to Canton and Peking, returning to Austria via Moscow. Before the group departed Vienna, it was advised by the PRC Embassy in Vienna that visas could not be issued because the publications had all in the past carried advertising of Nationalist Chinese firms. The journalist group departed nonetheless, with the expectation of obtaining visas in Hong Kong after submitting a sharp protest to the PRC Embassy in Vienna pointing out the distinction between editorial and advertising policy. At least one Vienna newspaper has flatly rejected any agreement placing limitations upon the acceptance of advertising, and it is understood that all publications concerned have taken the same line.

2. Field Dissem: None.

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